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PLEASE

PREVENT
FOREST
FIRES

July 1990 R8-RG 56

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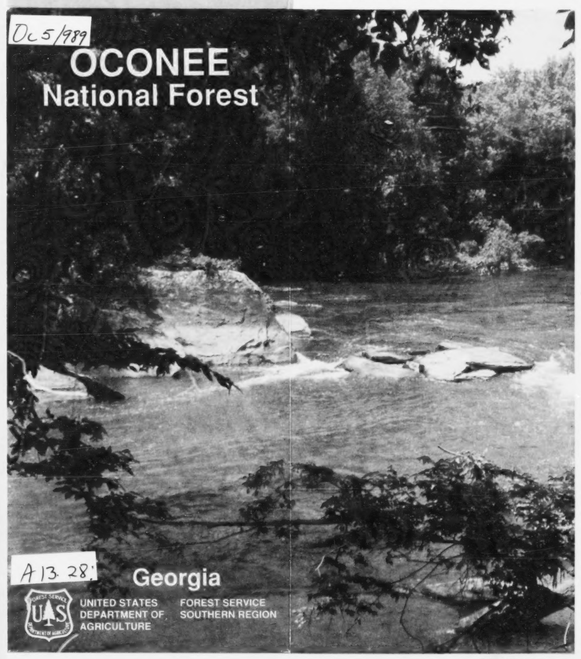


Wise Creek

WELCOME TO THE OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST

The Oconee, lccated in the rolling Piedmont of central Georgia, is one of two national forests in Georgia. It was established in 1959 from lands that had been used as a soil conservation project. Over 109,000 acres are now within this highly productive forest. The forest is managed for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, minerals and wildlife.

EXPERIMENTAL FORESTS

Within the Oconee National Forest are two experimental forests. Scull Shoals Experimental Forest, containing 5,418 acres, is on the northern end of the Oconee in Greene and Oglethorpe Counties. The Hitchiti Experimental Forest, containing 4,592 acres, is on the southern end of the Oconee, in Jones County.

The Scull Shoals Experimental Forest is used to study regeneration and management of Piedmont hardwoods. The Hitchiti is used to study loblolly pine. You are welcome to use these lands for recreation as long as no one interferes with research activities.

The Brender Forestry Educaton Center is also headquartered at the Hitchiti to provide Forest educational programs on forest management to the public.

WILDLIFE AND FISH

The Oconee National Forest and the adjacent Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge comprise a significant island of forest in the lower Piedmont Province. Together, they serve as a sanctuary for all species of plants and animals that occur naturally in the area. In this contiguous range, about 350 species of animals and fish, and about 1,500 species of plants can be found.

Hunting and Fishing

Spring fishing for red-breast sunfish on the Ocmulgee River is unsurpassed anywhere in the State. Although you can fish by wading in parts of the river, a small boat, canoe, or float tube is ideal. Small spinners and jigs are effective lures on light spinning tackle. A half-pound red-breast on a fly rod is excellent sport!

Lake Oconee has an excellent reputation for early season crappie. This 19,000-acre impoundment is easily accessible from Interstate Highway 20.

Hunting for large and small game is available during the Statewide seasons, except for the following areas, which have special seasons:

— Redlands Wildlife Management Area
— Cedar Creek Wildlife Management Area
— Hitchiti Experimental Forest

Please consult current hunting regulations before planning your trip.
Seasons for deer hunting can be quite variable.

Wildlife Management Areas

Two large portions of the Oconee National Forest are designated as wildlife management areas. Cedar Creek, established in 1946, is located in Putnam, Jones and Jasper Counties. Some lands within this boundary remain privately owned. Therefore, be sure to obtain permission from the owners before hunting on their land.

The Redlands Wildlife Management Area was designated in 1987. This site includes all Forest Service land in Morgan, Greene, Oconee and Oglethorpe Counties north of Interstate 20. Wildlife management areas are protected by State and Federal regulations. Uses such as hiking, camping, picnicking and hunting are permitted according to regulations. Please consult Georgia hunting and fishing regulations for hunting dates, limits and license fees.

Endangered Species

Bald eagles and red-cockaded woodpeckers live in the Oconee National Forest and are protected. The Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Forest Service Research have entered into an agreement aimed at joint recovery efforts for the red-cockaded woodpecker. Help us restore these species to healthy populations by avoiding nesting sites.

Hunt Camps

The Oconee National Forest provides more than 50 dispersed camps for hunting and fishing enthusiasts. These camps provide areas off the road that are safer for users and minimize impact on the environment. The camps are scattered over the district and are indicated by a symbol on the forest map. Each area contains fire rings, parking area, pit toilets, and usually hanging racks and bulletin boards. We encourage hunters to use these areas during deer and turkey seasons because camping in undesignated areas spoils many hunting grounds.

Range

Certain areas of the Oconee National Forest are available through permits for cattle grazing. Most of these areas offer improved pastures. Permittees pay the Forest Service for use of these areas, which are also the home of wildlife.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Oconee National Forest includes many areas of historical ano cultural interest. One of these areas is the old village of Scull Shoals, the site of Georgia's first paper mill, cotton gin, and cotton factory. At the close of the Civil War, Scull Shoals was the second largest village in Greene County. Now, only building foundations, walls, chimneys, and bridge abutments remain.

White-tailed Deer Abound on the Oconee National Forest

MINERALS

Three types of minerals are mined in the area. These are amethyst, feldspar and granite. The feldspar operation, in existence since 1944, employs about 60 people from the local area.

WATERSHED

The Oconee National Forest lies in the watersheds of three major Piedmont river systems, Ocmulgee, Oconee and Apalachee. These watersheds provide recreational activities along with much of the drinking water for communities such as Monticello.

The Forest Service protects these valuable watersheds by maintaining healthy, productive forests. Further efforts are made to reduce erosion by reforesting land damaged by the many active gullies that resulted from earlier farming of the area.

IS THE WATER SAFE?

We hope your visit to your national forests will be enjoyable and safe. One hazard you should be aware of is an intestinal disorder called GIARDIASIS (gee-ar-dye-a-sis). The disease is caused by a microscopic organism, Giardia lamblia, commonly found in untreated water. Its effects can be severe, badly upsetting your digestive system.

Protect Yourself

The most effective treatment for killing Giardia is to boil water vigorously for at least 3 to 5 minutes.

Chemical treatment with iodine or chlorine effectively kills bacterial organisms, but the same treatment will not reliably kill Giardia, a protozoa.
Boiling is the only sure treatment for Giardia and all the other microscopic organisms found in raw water.

For short trips, take a supply of treated water from home or other treated sources.

Protect Others

Giardia can be readily transmitted between humans and animals. Human or animal waste can contain the disease. Waste should be buried 6 inches deep and at least 100 feet away from natural waters.

RULES OF OUTDOOR SAFETY

Consider the needs of fish and game so that they will remain abundant for future generations to enjoy. Observe State hunting, fishing and trapping regulations.

When hiking in areas open to hunting, use caution and wear a brightly colored shirt or vest.

Public facilities are for everyone's use. Report vandalism and damage to the district ranger's office.

Keep your camp in a clean, sanitary condition. Leave your camp in as good a condition as you would expect to find it.

Place campfires where you can easily extinguish them. Put your campfire out when you leave for any period of time.

Don't cut standing trees. Use only down wood for firewood.

Watch for poisonous snakes.

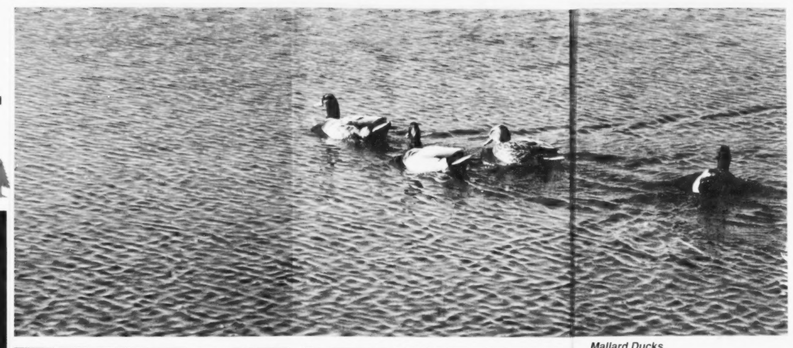
Boil or treat all water from open sources before drinking.

Insects

If you are not prepared for them, insects can cause much discomfort, transmit diseases and ruin an otherwise enjoyable outing. Chiggers (or redbugs) and ticks are prevalent, but bites can be reduced by applying insect repellent or powdered sulphur around your pant legs and ankles. Mosquitoes and yellow flies, present during the spring and summer months, can be discouraged by applying insect repellent to exposed skin areas and by avoiding fragrant lotions and skin creams. You will sleep more comfortably if you use a mosquito net or zippered tent.

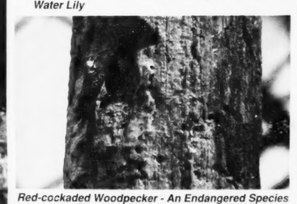
Snakes.

Georgia has four species of poisonous snakes: rattlesnake, cottonmouth (moccasin), copperhead, and coral. Snakes defend themselves by striking, but when given the chance, will generally choose flight rather than attack. A little care about where you sit or place your hands and feet can reduce the possibility of being bitten.

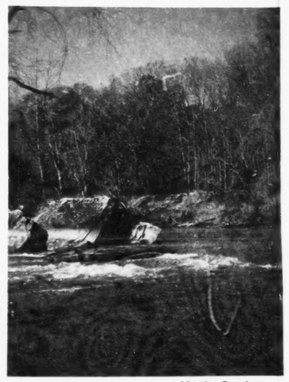


Mallard Ducks

Water Lily

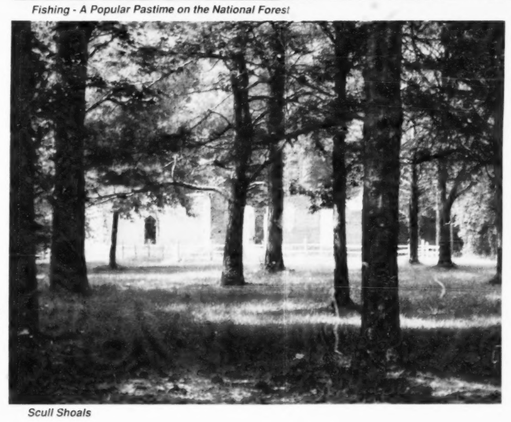


Red-cockaded Woodpecker - An Endangered Species



Murder Creek

Fishing - A Popular Pastime on the National Forest



Scull Shoals

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Certain rules are enforced on the Oconee National Forest in order to insure your safety and enjoyment. By observing the regulations posted at recreation sites, you and others will be able to fully enjoy all that the National Forests have to offer.

If you have questions, or would like maps and brochures, please contact:

Forest Supervisor
508 Oak Street
Gainesville, GA 30501
Telephone (404) 536-0541

District Ranger
349 Forsyth Street
Monticello, GA 31064
Telephone (404) 468-2244

RECREATION

The Oconee National Forest offers thousands of people the opportunity to camp, ride horses, hike, boat, swim, water ski, picnic, fish, ride all-terrain vehicles and hunt. Lake Sinclair, Oconee River Recreation Area, Hillsboro Lake, and the Redlands and Swords Boat Ramps on Lake Oconee provide the settings for much of the recreation activity.

TIMBER

The harvest of timber and pulpwood is an important part of the management of the Oconee National Forest. The average harvest of sawlogs from this forest exceeds 20 million board feet a year — enough lumber to build more than 3,000 homes. Harvesting and processing wood from the Oconee National Forest provides a direct livelihood for about 100 area families and, indirectly, to another 300.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
F. DALE ROBERTSON, CHIEF

OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST
GEORGIA
1989

Scale 1/2"=1 Mile

LEGEND

- National Forest Boundary
- Special Area Boundary
- Interstate Interchange
- Primary Highway
- Secondary Highway
- Improved Road
- Unimproved Road
- Trail
- District Ranger Office
- Other Forest Service Facility
- National Forest Land
- Interstate Highway
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Forest Road or Trail
- Recreation Site, Forest Service
- Recreation Site, Other
- Hunt Camp Check Station
- Located or Landmark Object
- Horizontal Control Station
- House, Church, School
- Cemetery

MAPS ARE AVAILABLE AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST ACTIVITIES MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

FOREST SUPERVISOR
508 OAK STREET, N.W.
GAINESVILLE, GA 30501

OCONEE RANGER DISTRICT
349 FORSYTH STREET
MONTICELLO, GA 31064

OCONEE NF RECREATION SITES	LOCATION	FEE AREA	CAMPING UNITS	TRAILER SPACE	TRAILER SANITARY FAC	BOAT LAUNCH	CONCESSIONS	DRINKING WATER	PICNICKING	SANITARY FACILITIES	BOATING	FISHING	HIKING TRAILS	SWIMMING
HILLSBORO LAKE	C-6								●			●	●	
OCONEE RIVER	E-2		●			●			●		●	●	●	
REDLANDS BOAT RAMP	E-3					●			●	●	●	●		
LAKE SINCLAIR	D-6		●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
SWORDS BOAT RAMP	E-3					●			●	●	●	●		

KEY MAP

INDEX TO GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

Compiled at the Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia, and at the U.S. Forest Service Geometronics Service Center, Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1980 from Forest Service and U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle maps. Field edited by Southern Region, 1984. Land status updated September, 1988. Limited revision 1989